

the Senator from New Mexico and for myself, and the vote to occur after the already scheduled vote. I ask that it be in order to ask for the yeas and nays now.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. It is in order to request the yeas and nays.

Mr. STEVENS. I do request the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The request is agreed to.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, parliamentary inquiry. I understand the Senate will stand in recess at 12:30.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, that is correct.

Mr. STEVENS. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, the legislation pending before the Senate is the emergency supplemental bill dealing with Iraq; and that has to do with security: security for our troops, security in Iraq. But there are other issues of security that affect us in our country: issues of security that deal with protecting our homeland. We provide critically needed funds to try to prevent another terrorist attack on our soil.

So I was surprised, as I was traveling the other day, to hear the President talk about using Homeland Security assets to track down Americans who are traveling in Cuba illegally and punishing those Americans.

As you know, it is currently illegal for Americans to travel in Cuba, except by a license given by the U.S. Treasury Department. The fact is, though, that there are many Americans who do go to Cuba. Many go because they think it is their right as Americans to travel freely, and in many cases, they go because they are not aware that they are breaking any rules.

I believe the travel ban unfairly punishes American citizens. In an attempt to take a slap at Fidel Castro, it ends up restricting the right of American people to travel. Many of us here think that makes no sense at all.

When I heard the President describe his interest in having Homeland Security people track down American tourists traveling in Cuba, I thought I would come to the floor of the Senate, and talk about a grandmother named Joan Slote. As you can see from this picture, Joan is in her mid 70s. She is a Senior Olympian. She is a bicyclist. She bicycles all over the world. She is in her mid 70s. And she joined a bicycle tour of Cuba, with a cycling club from Canada. They bicycled in the country of Cuba for, I believe, 8 or 9 days.

Joan Slote came back to this country from Cuba, and later on she was off to Europe where she was on a bicycle tour. While she was in Europe, she learned her son had brain cancer, and

she rushed back to the United States, and just stopped at her home for a minute, and then rushed down to be with her son and attended to her son, who later died of brain cancer.

When she finally came back to her home, apparently there was a letter waiting for some long while from the U.S. Treasury Department that said: Oh, by the way, you traveled to Cuba with a bicycle club from Canada, and that was illegal, and so we are administering a \$7,630 fine.

So Joan Slote, this mid 70s grandmother—no threat to this country for sure—is one of those Americans who is now being punished by the U.S. Government for travel in Cuba.

Now, we have folks down at the Department of the Treasury in an organization called the Office of Foreign Assets Control, or OFAC for short—and that is the organization that is charged with tracking money to terrorist groups to protect our country. But instead of focusing on that critically important mission, OFAC officials are tracking retired grandmothers who are riding a bicycle in Cuba and try to slap them with a big fine.

And now the President says: Oh, by the way, I would like to get more involved here. I want the Homeland Security Department tracking these people who are traveling to Cuba.

I thought our interest here in the Senate was to fund a Homeland Security agency to protect our country against the threats of terrorists, not to chase little old grandmothers who take a bicycle trip to Cuba.

Incidentally, OFAC finally negotiated with a \$2,000 fine for Joan Slote. After I intervened, they said: All right, the \$7,600 fine we will reduce to \$2,000. So she sent them the money. But do you know what they did then? They sent a collection agency after her and told her they were going to begin to garnish her Social Security payments. Why? I do not have the foggiest idea. I guess it is just a bureaucratic mess.

But I was just thinking as I was driving down the road the other day, hearing President Bush say we have to get tough on Cuba, we are going to take Homeland Security people to go chase American tourists in Cuba.

The interesting thing is, Americans can travel virtually everywhere. You can travel to Communist China. Yes, that is a communist country. You can travel to Vietnam. Yes, that is a communist country. But you cannot travel to Cuba. And we are going to use Homeland Security assets—people, time, money—to go track down little old ladies who are bicycling in Cuba?

Are we really threatened by the poor guy who took the ashes of his dead father to Cuba, which was his father's last wish, to be sprinkled on the lawn by the church where he ministered in Cuba many years before?

Yes, they tracked that fellow down for taking his dad's ashes to Cuba. They fined him \$7500.

It is story after story after story like this.

And now the President wants people in Homeland Security tracking Americans to punish Americans for traveling in Cuba.

What about homeland security? How about tracking terrorists? Let's track terrorists, not retired grandmothers who are riding bicycles.

Marshall McLuhan once said: I don't always believe everything I say. I thought to myself, that must surely have been the case in the White House when the President announced we are going to take Homeland Security Agency resources and start tracking American citizens so we can slap big fines on them for traveling into Cuba. This is preposterous. What on Earth can the President be thinking?

I have talked to Joan Slote. She is just one of many examples of ordinary U.S. citizens who meant absolutely no harm. I have talked to another retired grandmother from Wisconsin. She traveled to Cuba innocently and rode a bicycle as well. I have talked to many such folks. I held a hearing on this. I had people show up who described their travel to Cuba. They did not know it was illegal but—guess what—they have the Federal Government after them.

In an attempt to slap Fidel Castro, we are punishing American people. We are restricting the right of the American people to travel. And now the President gets into the act, which, I assume is about Florida politics, and says, oh, by the way, I want to divert Homeland Security assets to see if we can't get tougher on people like Joan Slote.

This issue involves wasted resources, that could and should be spent on real threats to our homeland security. Homeland security is about protecting this country from the threat of terrorists, not chasing senior citizens riding around on bicycles.

That is where the homeland security assets ought to be employed. That is where the Department of the Treasury assets ought to be employed, protecting our country from the threat of terrorist attacks, not chasing Joan Slote. My hope is that perhaps they will have another meeting at the White House and rethink this and finally do the right thing, at least meet some basic test of common sense.

I yield the floor.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the hour of 12:30 having arrived, the Senate will stand in recess until the hour of 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, at 12:30 p.m., the Senate recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. VOINOVICH.)

GENETIC INFORMATION NONDISCRIMINATION ACT OF 2003

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the hour of 2:15 p.m. having arrived, the Senate will resume